

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
December 4, 2014

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Susan Chapnick, Janine White, Catherine Garnett (Associate), Charles Tirone, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, Michael Nonni (Associate), Michelle Durocher (Associate) and David White of the Commission.

7:45pm – **Commission Business**

Coleman/JWhite motioned to approve the 11/20/14 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. White updated the Commission on the new **Conservation Land sign project** and that one additional sign will be placed at Mt. Gilboa, for three total there.

Ms. Durocher asked if there was a permit on **Thesda St.** for new construction at the back of a lot. Ms. Beckwith looked up the permit from August 2008 filing – Ms. Durocher will check the Permit sign # for confirmation.

The Commission reviewed the drafted **Hazardous tree policy**, which will be posted to the webpage. Mr. Stevens will revise and circulate another draft for review.

Ms. Beckwith presented a question asked by the condo association for **Watermill Place** regarding reuse of roof ballast as mulch. The large flat natural stone is currently on the roof to protect the flat roof system in place. They asked if this material could be spread as mulch in two locations; along the Lowell St planting beds and along the embankment of Mill Brook where they currently place bark mulch.

The Conservation Commission will allow the use of the stone along Lowell St, but before the placement along Mill Brook, the condo association would have to file a permit application for further review.

Ms. Chapnick updated the Commission on the **Mystic River oil spill** clean up and the development that the DEP obtained a settlement for natural resource damages where the oil company will provide approx. \$55K. The monies will be released as a grant for a water quality improvement project in the segment of the river where the spill occurred. Ms. Beckwith presented her draft ideas on a project at the broken stormwater outlet near Park St and Mystic Valley Parkway and will support the Town's application for the grant.

Ms Chapnick reminded Ms. Beckwith of her outline of the events surrounding the spill and clean up that was written for the Commission's last newsletter. This can be used to send more information to the neighborhoods surrounding the river. Ms Beckwith will send this to the Conservation agent in Medford.

Mr. White reported on the Spy Pond Committee and discussed the Waterbodies Fund and new warrant article for this coming year's Town Meeting. The Commission's **Waterbodies** working group is tasked with evaluating waterways in Town to possibly be cleaned up or enhanced by projects funded by the Waterbodies Fund. Last year's warrant article received \$40K.

Mr. Stevens presented the latest draft **filing fee restructuring** schedule and reviewed many of the categories. The existing Wetland Protection Act categories were the reference for the draft. The Commission will further review those.

Ms. Beckwith presented a new draft **native plant list** for the webpage. The information was compiled by Mr. Nonni with the intent of providing readily available native plants from local sources. This list will have a link to the longer and more exhaustive native plant list from Lexington.

Mr. Nonni, reporting for the **Symmes** working group, that the boundary markers were placed last week and a new arborist report is due by Dec. 15th. Mr. Nonni will also coordinate with the Arlington Land Trust in his role as liaison on the Symmes working group.

Meeting adjourned at 10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator